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BOOK REVIEW

The C.I.A. Today

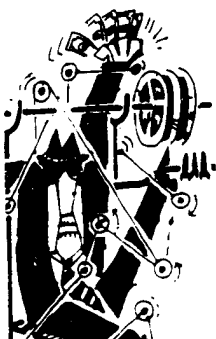
To the Editor:

J ~~Sanford J. Ungar~~, reviewing John Prados's "Presidents' Secret Wars" and Loch K. Johnson's "Season of Inquiry" (Dec. 21), should have tried to get his act together. At one point he writes that "the C.I.A. has not behaved like a 'rogue elephant.' On the contrary, in its covert actions, it has usually carried out decisions made or encouraged by others." But then elsewhere he writes: "Never has the C.I.A. been so well funded, and so free to conduct its own foreign policy, as under President Reagan." Well, which is it?

PAUL SEABURY
Berkeley, Calif.

Sanford J. Ungar replies:

Both. The C.I.A. has been freer than usual under



President Reagan, but it has generally been implementing decisions made or encouraged by others; the trouble is that those decisions tend not to be publicly known and are sometimes contrary to law and public opinion as expressed by majority votes in Congress (such as military funding of the so-called contras with profits from arms sales to Iran). The C.I.A.'s foreign

policy may have been supported in this case by the President, but not, as far as we can tell, by the American people.